

Bigbee BT

1897

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

— OF THE —

Forty-Fifth Annual Session

— OF THE —

Bigbee * Baptist * Association

— HELD WITH —

Christian Valley Baptist Church,

COATOPA, Sumter Co., Ala., November 10 and 11, 1897.

OFFICERS.

Elder J. R. LARKIN, Moderator	-	-	-	Coatopa, Ala.
J. D. COOK, Clerk	-	-	-	Clinton, Ala.
C. E. MATHERS, Treasurer	-	-	-	Livingston, Ala.

The next session of this Association will be held with
the New Prospect Baptist Church, six miles East of
Livingston, Sumter County, Ala., on Friday,
before the second Sabbath in
September, 1898.



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Minutes

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BREWERSVILLE, ALA., Nov. 10, 1897.

The Bigbee Baptist Association met this day at 11 A. M. for its forty-fifth session, with Christian Valley Baptist church, and was called to order by the former Moderator, J. R. Larkin.

The Introductory Sermon was then preached by F. A. Freeman. Text, Acts, 28-15: "He thanked God, and took courage."

Adjourned to 1:30 P. M.

AFTERNOON.

Re-assembled at the appointed hour. Sang, "Nearer my God to Thee." Led in prayer by J. D. Cook. The Moderator appointed W. G. Curry and C. E. Mathers to read the letters from the churches. In the absence of the former Clerk, J. D. Cook was appointed Clerk pro tem. Delegates were enrolled as follows:

Bulah—M. P. May.
Christian Valley—W. C. Cross, Wm. Larkin, Mrs. L. M. Hord and J. R. Larkin.
Clinton—J. D. Cook.
Concord—Letter and Funds.
Cuba—Funds.
Demopolis—J. C. Kelley, G. Ervin, J. N. Stanley and J. G. Dickinson.
Epes—Not represented.
Entaw—Letter and Funds after adjournment.
Friendship—Not represented.
Gainesville—Letter after adjournment.
Hopewell, Choctaw county.—Not represented.
Hopewell, Sumter county.—S. E. Speed, A. B. Spidle and Hooker Adkins.
Livingston—W. G. Curry, M. D. Gould, James Jackson and C. E. Mathers.
Mt. Hermon—Not represented.
Mt. Lebanon—Letter and Funds.
Mt. Pleasant—W. F. Westbrook.
Mt. Sterling—Letter after adjournment.
New Prospect.—L. A. McLean, W. H. Scarborough and W. P. Brewer.
Rehobeth—F. A. Freeman, J. W. Cook and A. B. Cook.
Shorts—M. M. McDonald.
Siloam—Not represented.
Sumterville—J. E. Harris.
York—W. A. Altman and C. P. Mills.
Zion—Not represented.

On motion, the Association elected its officers by acclamation. J. R. Larkin, re-elected Moderator; J. D. Cook, Clerk; and C. E. Mathers, Treasurer.

The report on Temperance was read as follows :

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

We shall not attempt to discuss the righteousness, or unrighteousness, of the saloon business in this report; suffice to say, that without the support, and encouragement of Christian people, it could not exist. The cause of temperance is one that has been advocated since the days of the apostles. "Be ye temperate in all things" is an injunction that we should heed, as much as the injunction to abstain from evil. There are many reasons why we should be temperate in the use of intoxicants, aside from christianity, science and morality that appeal most strongly. The giant oak that stands without an effort, must exert itself in a great storm; this exertion is called reserve energy and is only brought into play when needed. The human system has the power of storing away energy, and, but for this fact, disease must soon annihilate the human family. It has been clearly demonstrated that intoxicants do not create energy, but, that they merely utilize the already stored energy. It is readily seen how a prolonged use of intoxicants renders the body subject to disease, and to hallucinations. From a moral standpoint, we are prone to think any reflecting person must admit that temperance is a necessity.

Intemperance is the cause of more crime perhaps, than any other one thing. It is the twin companion, if not the parent, of more murders, thefts, arsons, and in fact all the evils incident to humanity, than all other influences combined.

Christianity came into the world to elevate and to remodel us into the image of God. Does the use of intoxicants add to the glory of God by elevating us morally, or does it rather degrade us morally? and so transform us into the image of the evil one. Verily, the latter. We should continually strive against those elements in our nature that tend to degrade us, ever looking to God as the source of our help. We believe, however, that the temperance cause is growing stronger every year. Only this year the Banker's Association of Kentucky, decided to forever dispense with the use of intoxicants at their annual banquets.

This action taken by so influential a body must exert a wholesome influence on the cause.

Respectfully submitted,

C. E. MATHERS

The report was spoken to by F. A. Freeman, J. D. Cook, B. B. Seale, W. G. Curry and J. A. Howard, then adopted.

The Moderator appointed special committees as follows :

Finance—W. F. Westbrook, L. A. McLean and A. B. Cook.

Programme—B. B. Seale, W. H. Scarborough and J. W. Blakney.

Nominations—L. A. McLean, A. B. Spidle and S. E. Williamson.

Report on Woman's Work and report by Mrs. H. L. Mellen, Vice-President of Women's Societies of the Bigbee Association were read by W. G. Curry.

REPORT ON WOMAN'S WORK.

We most earnestly commend to the churches of the association the work which is being done by the women of our State. The amount of money raised by them in their own and according to their own methods is truly gratifying. We would urge the pastors to give all possible encouragement to the women in their laudable work to assist in organizing Societies wherever practicable, and to help them in God-given work. Much of the efficiency and success of woman's work in the Association and in the State is largely due to the self-denying labors of our Sister H. L. Mellen. Her zeal for missions "has provoked very many," and the success which has attended her efforts to organize Societies, Mission Bands, &c., entitles her to the praise of all churches. Ample confirmation of the great work women are doing for the cause of missions may be found in the reports of the various boards. Many missionaries on our home and foreign fields are being supported in whole, or in part, by our Godly women. Let us give them our sympathy and our help in every way possible.

Respectfully submitted,

W. G. CURRY, Chairman.

REPORT ON WOMEN'S SOCIETIES OF THE BIGBEE ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR ENDING OCTOBER, 1897.

No. of Societies, ... 6. No. of Children's Bands, ... 4.

The following amounts have been contributed to the objects named :

Foreign Missions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 33 54
Home Missions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	121 94
State Missions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34 20
Miss Willie Kelly (China)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	74 80
Christmas Offering (China)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37 97
Church Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	105 55
Orphanage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47 15
Theological Seminary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25 00
Judson Institute	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	105 00
Bible Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5 00

Total,

\$550 15

Mrs. H. L. MELLEX, Vice-Presid't.

The reports were spoken to by W. G. Curry, then adopted. Committee on Programme reported as follows :

Preaching at 7:30 to-night by J. A. Howard. Meet at 9 A. M. Thursday. Devotional exercises thirty minutes conducted by F. A. Freeman. Then have the reports on Missions. Preaching at 11 A. M. by J. D. Cook. Adjourn one hour for dinner.

Adjourned to 7:30 P. M. Benediction by F. A. Freeman.

EVENING SESSION.

The Association met at the appointed hour, and had preaching by J. A. Howard, then adjourned to 9. A. M. Thursday.

THURSDAY MORNING.

The Association re-assembled at the appointed hour, and devotional exercises were conducted by F. A. Freeman.

The Moderator called for representation, and letters were read from Concord, Demopolis, Mt. Lebanon and York, and delegates enrolled with list on first page.

The reports on Home and State Missions, and the report of the Executive Committee were read; then on motion, a committee was appointed as hereinafter named to prepare a report on Foreign Missions, and forward the same to the Clerk for publication in the Minutes.

NOTE.—By oversight of Moderator no committee was appointed, and consequently no report has been received. CLERK.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

Our Home Mission Board, located at Atlanta, Georgia, is now engaged in its work in all the States and territories included within the bounds of the Southern Baptist Convention and Island of Cuba.

Partial Summary of Work for the Conventional year, ending April 30, 1897: Missionaries, 372; Churches and Stations, 1963; Baptisms, 4799; Received by Letter, 4746; Total Additions, 9455; Churches Constituted, 139; Houses of Worship Built, 57.

The State Board of Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Indian Territory, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Oklahoma Territory, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Western Arkansas and Indian Territory, and Western North Carolina are in co-operation with the Home Board in part or the whole of their work.

There is a constant stream of foreigners pouring into this country, and we must endeavor to Christianize them, or the rising generation will be largely moulded after their way of thinking and believing.

There are tens of thousand of these people in Baltimore, Louisville, St. Louis and Kansas City, where our Board is now working. Missouri alone has about 800,000. The French population of Louisiana, the Germans of Oklahoma and Texas, and the Mexicans along the Rio Grande from El Paso to the Gulf, make at least as many more to whom we ought to send the gospel.

The enforced removal of all our pastors from the Island of Cuba more than a year ago, left the work in the hands of the body of the membership. Many have removed to this country. We have been hoping the belligerent conditions prevailing there would soon have a satisfactory termination, and our mission work fully resumed.

During the last conventional year, the Board received in cash from all the States, \$59,184.09. Of this amount Alabama paid \$2,964.58.

Brethren, the demands upon the Home Board are great. Let us ask our churches to contribute liberally every year to its work.

J. D. Cook, Chairman.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

We beg leave to report on State Missions as follows: The State Board of Missions at Montgomery, Ala., has employed during the last year six evangelists for the different sections of the State. Their labors have been greatly blessed, and many conversions have been reported as the result of their efforts. Besides this direct result of their evangelistic services, many of the churches have been encouraged and strengthened and brought into a more hearty co-operation with the work of our convention.

Many sections of our state are largely under the influence of the anti-missionary spirit. Much work has been done by the evangelists in these sections with most gratifying results.

Beside the work of the evangelists, the State Board of Missions has carried on with no small degree of success its usual work of assisting weak and pastorless churches as far as the contributions from the churches would allow.

We urge all of our churches to a most hearty and liberal co-operation with our State Board of Missions, and we bespeak for this great work your sympathy, prayers and contributions.

Respectfully submitted,

J. G. DICKINSON.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

At a meeting held by the Executive Committee in December last, it was agreed that owing to the fact that the State Mission Board had made no provision for mission work in the Association, it was deemed expedient that something should be done to supply this great need. After a full and free conference with each other it was agreed that the pastors within the Association should undertake to do the work, so far as they might have time and opportunity, they receiving two dollars per day for services actually rendered. W. G. Curry was chosen Secretary of the Committee, and to receive and disburse whatever funds might be placed in his hands by order of the Committee. A letter was addressed to each church in the Association setting forth the action of the Committee, and requesting them to send State Mission Funds to him at Livingston. In response to this appeal \$51.13 was received from all sources, and deposited in the bank at Livingston to the credit of the Association, giving a receipt for amount sent by each church.

In pursuance of this plan a meeting of several days was held at Gainesville, beginning the 5th Sunday in May, by Brethren Apsey and Curry, resulting in eight additions to the church, one by Baptism. The church for several years had been without regular preaching. By this meeting the church was greatly strengthened; a Sunday School was organized, and the doors of the church which had been for a long time closed, were re opened for worship and for service, and was supplied with preaching once a month by J. R. Curry during his vacation. The work at Gainesville was done without cost to the Association fund, the expense of the meeting having been collected on the field. Bro. H. B. Woodward was engaged by the Board to do Mission work at Mt. Sterling from March to September. He reports three accessions to the church. The blessing of God seems to have rested upon his work. For this service we have paid \$32.00 less \$15.10 collected on the field, leaving a balance now in the hands of the Executive Committee of \$16.90. Respectfully submitted.

Discussion then ensued upon the above named subjects by W. G. Curry and J. G. Dickinson.

The special order for 11 o'clock A. M. the Missionary Session, was postponed indefinitely, and the Missionary discussions were continued by J. A. Howard and J. D. Cook. Then on motion, the Executive Committee was directed to ask the State Board to appropriate \$100 to Gainesville and \$50 to Mt. Sterling to aid these churches in maintaining pastors, assuring the Board that these amounts and more, will be paid by this Association. On motion, further discussion of the Missionary subjects was deferred until the afternoon session.

The Moderator appointed the following committees:

Ministerial Education—J. G. Dickinson, B. B. Seale and W. P. Brewer.

Apportionment—J. C. Kelley, Wm. Larkin and J. E. Harris.

Correspondence—G. Ervin, M. D. Gould and W. A. Altman.

Adjourned to 1:30 P. M. Benediction by J. G. Dickinson.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

Re-assembled at the appointed hour. Sang, "Tis the promise of God," etc.

Discussion of the Missionary subjects resumed, and spoken to by J. D. Cook, J. G. Dickinson and J. A. Howard. The reports were then adopted.

The report on Ministerial Education was read by the Chairman.

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

The preaching of the "truth as it is in Jesus" to a "wicked and gainsaying world." The developing, organizing and leading of God's people, calls for consecrated, well trained men in our ministry. God seems pleased to call His ministry, and give to us the privilege and duty of providing for their training. He has given us a great school at East Lake, and competent teachers; and to this place God's chosen ones will gather as fast as the churches provide the means to sustain them while they are preparing to lead in this great work committed to us.

Our noble Faculty at the Howard cheerfully give the needed instruction, but it is too much to ask them to feed these young men who are to give us their lives. This has been done to some extent in the past.

Your committee recommend the adoption of Brothers Renfro Curry and H. B. Woodward as our beneficiaries at Howard College, and promise to them such aid as they may need during this session.

We heartily commend also to our people our great school at Louisville, Ky., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, which is doing such a noble work in training our ministers for efficiency in the Lord's work. We urge all our ministers who can possibly do so, to attend this institution which the Lord has so greatly blessed. We also urge our churches to remember this institution with a prayerful and co-operative spirit. Respectfully submitted,

J. G. Dickinson.

The report was spoken to by J. A. Howard, F. A. Freeman, J. G. Dickinson and W. G. Curry, then adopted.

The following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, That, as there is no colportage work being done in our Association, we transfer the money sent for Colportage Work to Ministerial Education.

The report on Apportionment was adopted as follows :

REPORT ON APPOINTMENT.

CHURCHES.	State Missions.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Ministerial Education.	Orphan's Home.	Total.
Bentley.....	\$ 7.50	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 21.50
Christian Valley.....	12.00	5.00	5.00	8.50	7.50	38.00
Clinton.....	9.75	4.50	4.00	7.50	5.00	30.75
Concord.....	30.00	6.00	5.00	8.50	7.00	56.50
Cuba.....	30.00	5.00	1.50	6.50	7.50	50.50
Demopolis.....	15.50	6.00	6.00	7.00	7.50	46.00
Eutaw.....	6.00	2.00	2.50	3.50	3.00	17.00
Eples.....	4.50	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.50	12.00
Friendship.....	4.50	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.50	12.00
Gainesville.....	3.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	8.00
Hopewell (Choctaw county).....	7.50	3.00	3.00	6.00	4.00	23.50
Hopewell (Sumter county).....	7.50	2.50	2.00	4.00	1.00	20.00
Livingston.....	32.50	18.00	18.00	22.00	29.00	119.50
Mt. Hermon.....	3.00	2.50	2.00	4.00	3.00	14.00
Mt. Pleasant.....	3.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	11.00
Mt. Sterling.....	4.50	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	9.50
New Prospect.....	19.50	5.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	27.50
Rehoboth.....	15.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	6.00	36.00
Shotts.....	7.50	5.00	5.00	6.00	5.00	28.50
Silviam.....	15.00	5.00	5.00	7.00	5.00	37.00
Sumterville.....	15.00	5.00	5.00	9.50	7.50	42.00
York.....	22.50	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	70.50
Zion.....	2.50	3.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	17.50
Grand total.....						\$ 743.75

Respectfully submitted,

J. C. Kelley, Chairman.

The Moderator appointed Standing Committees to report at session in 1898:

Foreign Missions—J. N. Stanley, Demopolis, Ala., Hooker Adkins and S. E. Williamson.

Home Missions—J. G. Apsey, Eutaw, Ala., L. Lewis and J. P. Blakney.

State Missions—G. Ervin, Demopolis, Ala., G. E. Jones and C. F. Rainer.

Woman's Work—W. G. Curry, Livingston, Ala., J. W. Cook and E. M. Flowers.

Sabbath Schools—J. C. Kelley, Demopolis, Ala., C. P. Mills and M. McDonald.

Temperance—F. A. Freeman, Butler, Ala., B. B. Seale and N. M. Carpenter.

General and Ministerial Education—J. W. Powell, Yantley, Ala., E. M. Shaw and A. B. Praytor.

Orphan's Home—L. Poole, Cuba, Ala., F. M. Ward, Jr., and L. A. Brock.

Religious Literature—J. G. Dickinson, Demopolis, Ala., A. B. Spidle and W. H. Scarborough.

Executive Committee—J. D. Cook, Clinton, Ala., J. G. Apsey and W. G. Curry.

The report on Nominations was submitted and adopted :
REPORT ON NOMINATION.

Your Committee on Nominations respectfully report : That the next meeting of this Association be held with New Prospect church, Sumter county, beginning at 10 o'clock A. M., Friday, before the second Sabbath in September, 1898. That the Introductory Sermon be preached at 11 A. M., Friday, by J. G. Dickinson; J. D. Cook, Alternate. The Missionary Sermon be preached at 11 A. M., Sunday, by J. G. Apsey.

S. E. WILLIAMSON, /
 L. A. McLEAN, / Committee.
 WM. LARKIN, /

The following resolution was adopted :

RESOLVED, That the thanks of this Association are hereby tendered to the members of Christian Valley Church, and to the citizens of the community for their kind hospitality to us while in their midst.

Mt. Pleasant Church having asked for letter of dismission to join Bethel Association, on motion, the letter was granted.

The Committee on Correspondence submitted their report, which was adopted.

REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE.

Your Committee on Correspondence report, that we have with us a former pastor, J. A. Howard, representing the Alabama Baptist. We have greatly appreciated this brothers presence and assistance.
 Respectfully submitted,

M. D. GOULD, Chairman.

The report on Finance was adopted as follows :

REPORT ON FINANCE.

Your Committee on Finance submit the following received :

	CASH.	VOUCHERS.	TOTAL.
For State Missions - -	\$55 35	\$120 15	\$175 50
" Home Missions - -	36 90	62 21	99 11
" Foreign Missions - -	32 35	123 36	155 71
" Bible and Colportage - -	3 00	1 00	4 00
" Ministerial Education - -	26 90	63 50	90 40
" Howard College Debt - -		16 95	16 95
" Indigent Ministers - -	5 15		5 15
" Orphan's Home - -	13 70	56 54	70 24
" Minutes - -	12 70		12 70
Total,	\$186 05	\$413 71	\$629 76

W. F. WESTBROOK, L. A. McLEAN, A. B. COOK.

W. G. Curry was appointed delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention, and J. D. Cook and J. G. Apsey, alternates.

On motion, adjourned to meet with New Prospect Baptist Church, at 10 A. M., on Friday, before the second Sabbath in September, 1898. The Association was led in the closing prayer by F. A. Freeman.

J. D. Cook, Clerk.

J. R. LARKIN,
 Moderator.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF BIGBEE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1897.

CURRICLES.

	State Missions.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Bible and Colportage.	Ministerial Education.	Howard College Debt.	Indigent Ministers.	Orphan's Home.	Church Improvement and Expenses at Home.	Benevolence.	Church Aid.	S. Y. Contribution Children's Day and Literature.	Ladies' Aid Society.	Anderson Institute.	Minutes.	Total.
Bundy	1 16	4 50	4 50	1 25	7 00	5 00	1 00	1 50	14 75	35 00	20 00	4 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	13 50
Christian Valley	8 80	5 00	4 00	4 00	6 50	3 00	1 50	3 00	3 00	20 00	5 25	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	75 55
Clinton	1 05	2 85	2 41	2 41	3 00	5 00	1 00	3 00	3 00	20 00	5 25	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	40 55
Conestoga	25 10	9 00	9 00	9 00	5 00	11 55	1 00	23 35	83 00	20 25	107 25	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	32 85
Cuba	3 90	4 10	4 10	4 15	20 50	5 00	1 00	23 35	83 00	20 25	107 25	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	50 00
Danapolis	29 15	18 15	6 15	6 15	5 00	5 00	1 00	1 50	1 50	1 50	1 50	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	48 00
Edgewood	9 00	12 00	1 50	1 50	5 00	5 00	1 00	1 50	1 50	1 50	1 50	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	48 00
Friendship																
Greenville																
Hebrew, Chocoma Co.	8 15	2 55	2 00	2 00	3 00	3 00	1 00	3 00	3 00	3 00	3 00	3 11	2 80	2 80	2 80	25 10
Hopewell, Southampton	11 25	18 00	18 00	18 00	25 50	25 50	1 00	18 00	25 05	47 75	47 75	3 11	2 80	2 80	2 80	520 15
Livingston																
Mr. Herman	5 00	1 50	1 50	1 50	2 00	2 00	50	2 50	2 50	2 50	2 50	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	6 45
Mr. Cleveland	10 00	1 50	1 50	1 50	2 00	2 00	50	2 50	2 50	2 50	2 50	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	40 80
Mr. Sterling	7 00	5 00	5 00	5 00	2 00	2 00	1 00	2 00	2 00	2 00	2 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	21 50
New Prospect	8 00	8 00	8 00	8 00	5 00	5 00	50	5 00	5 00	5 00	5 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	50 00
Richfield	2 00	2 00	2 00	2 00	2 00	2 00	50	2 00	2 00	2 00	2 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	10 25
Shore																
Shoreville	13 05	10 00	9 00	9 00	10 00	10 00	1 00	3 15	80 00	10 00	10 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	130 18
York	18 50	8 00	5 00	5 00	5 00	5 00	1 00	1 15	1 15	1 15	1 15	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	12 75
Zion																
Total	999 25	151 91	151 25	151 25	5 00	105 50	6 00	36 50	212 05	2 00	107 00	55 55	55 55	1 00	17 50	8 01 55



